



USAID | MACEDONIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATION FOR A MODERN SOCIETY

2006



Students present their "virtual bank" and demonstrate their practical business skills at a school business fair organized by USAID Macedonia's Secondary Education Activity (SEA).

EDUCATION IN MACEDONIA

- 235,000 elementary students
- Enrollment rate 96%
- 95,000 secondary school students
- Transition rate from elementary school 83%
- 45,000 university students
- On-time graduation rate 20%
- Education accounts for 3.6% of GDP and 14% of the state budget

For more information visit:
<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

PROGRAMS

MACEDONIA CONNECTS

Macedonia is now known as the "First Wireless Country in the World" due to the efforts of the Macedonia Connects project. Since Macedonia's development requires improved Internet access, particularly broadband, at prices accessible to businesses, schools and local government, USAID is supporting the expansion of affordable, accessible broadband internet to the entire country. As of September 2005, around 550 primary and secondary schools, university departments, and educational-support organizations across Macedonia have access to high-speed internet because of USAID. Through the Macedonia Connects project, all teachers and students are provided with free email accounts @schools.edu.mk and will be coached in developing school web pages. The project has directly affected the overall reduction of Internet prices by 75%.

PRIMARY EDUCATION PROJECT

The Primary Education Project is a five-year \$16 million initiative which aims to improve the quality of basic education in Macedonia. There are five major components: increasing information and communication technology access and use in the classroom; improving school-based assessment; improving math and science education; improving preparatory year education; and renovating selected primary schools. The project will equip 360 primary schools with 4,000 additional computers, improve the learning environment through repairs to 100 priority schools, and pilot five model energy efficient schools. Over 11,000 teachers and school administrators will be trained in modern teaching methods, use of ICT, and assessment practices.

SECONDARY EDUCATION ACTIVITY (SEA)

SEA focuses on improving the quality of education in Macedonia's 50 vocational schools and preparing more than 15,000 students for employment. Emphasis is on helping students learn more about the workplace and applying theoretical knowledge to practical tasks. Students link theory to practice and gain practical knowledge of running a company through their participation in student businesses established in 44 technical schools and by creating 19 simulated firms in seven economic schools. The student businesses also generate income for the vocational schools. School-based career centers in all 50 schools help students learn interview and resume-writing skills, access information about employment opportunities, and make connections with real businesses through interviews and internships. Finally, SEA is supporting improvements in school administration through the School Director Certification Program for 500 present and potential primary and secondary school directors, training over 2,000 teachers in modern interactive methods, and supporting school boards.

HIGHER EDUCATION LINKAGE PROGRAM (HELP)

The first private higher education institution in Macedonia, South East European University (SEEU), was established in November 2001 in Tetovo. As SEEU's largest donor, USAID has helped SEEU become a top notch, multi-ethnic university where more than 6,000 students now receive instruction in Albanian, Macedonian, and English. SEEU's modern facilities are comparable to those in any western country, and its fully-outfitted

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Children at a [USAID-supported Roma Educational Center in Macedonia's capital, Skopje.](#)

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[computer center uses state-of-the-art technology.](#) [In partnership with Indiana University, through HELP, USAID is now focused on increasing the teaching capacity in the Business Administration and the Communication, Sciences and Technology faculties.](#) [HELP has created a Career Center to prepare students for employment; a Business Development Center to link businesses companies with SEEU; and an Instructional Support Center to train instructors in modern teaching methods, IT, and English language.](#)

ROMA EDUCATION PROJECT (REP)

[Embracing the goals of the Decade for Roma Inclusion, USAID's Roma Education project \(REP\) enabled over 1,000 participating Roma students to attain better school retention and achievements last year. Providing continuous education support, REP works on better preparation of over 200 Roma pre-school children to enter regular schools. It trains teachers from 10 project primary schools with skills to better assist 640 Roma pupils, addressing diversity in the classroom. The classroom work is complemented with extra out-of-school support in homework writing and subject-based tutoring provided daily to the Roma students in five community-based Roma Education Centers \(RECs\) in Skopje, Prilep and Kumanovo. This year, 234 Roma secondary school students are awarded scholarships and mentorship assistance in stimulating school environments. The summer schools, English language and computer courses are additional incentives for the best-achieving secondary school students to further develop their capacities for continuous education and employment. 47 Roma university students receive scholarships, tutoring and additional academic support from their field of study. REP is financially supported by USAID, Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia \(FOSIM\), and the Swiss Foundation Pestalozzi.](#)

E-SCHOOLS PROJECT

[Through the e-Schools Project, USAID is installing new computer labs in every primary and secondary school in Macedonia, helping schools maintain the computer labs, and training 9,000 school teachers to use the new technology and integrate it into the curriculum.](#) [Thus far, 5,300 computers donated by the People's Republic of China have been installed by USAID with an additional 1,500 Chinese computers to be installed in primary schools this year.](#) [Together with Macedonia Connects, the e-Schools project has built an online resource portal for teachers, directors, and students.](#)

BASIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SKILLS TRAINING

[Many teachers lack the basic IT skills necessary to help students take advantage of IT resources.](#) [To support the use of computer labs in schools, and to help teachers integrate IT into their classes as quickly as possible, USAID provided basic IT skills training for 6,000 primary and secondary school teachers prior to the 2005-2006 school year.](#)

CREATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROJECT (CTL)

[Since 2002, USAID's CTL Project has worked in 18 secondary and 45 primary schools throughout Macedonia to introduce critical thinking teaching methods, establish 63 media labs with new computers and Internet connectivity, introduce new theories of school improvement and extra-curricular activities.](#) [In 2005, the CTL Project expanded to include teacher training institutes \(TTI\) in order to insure that future teachers start their jobs prepared with student-centered teaching methods and strong IT skills. Instructors and senior students from eight TTI's were trained in new teaching methods, European Credit Transfer System, curriculum design, and education for social justice. The facilities of the targeted TTI's will be renovated and IT and audio-visual equipment as well as access to on-line academic magazines will be provided.](#)

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Last year more than 1,000 Roma children were helped to remain in the school system and improve their academic achievements through the Roma Education Project (REP). REP provided assistance to 220 Roma pre-school children to enter school, after-school support to 640 primary school students in the Roma Educational Centers in Skopje, Kumanovo, and Prilep, scholarships and school-based mentorship support to 247 Roma secondary school students country wide, and scholarships, academic and peer mentoring and additional academic support for 47 Roma students studying at Macedonian universities. Additionally, the project engages the Roma parents and entire community. REP supports the "Decade of Roma Inclusion", a project among eight South-East European nations that aims to close the gap in welfare and living conditions between the Roma and the non-Roma. REP is jointly funded by USAID, the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, the Swiss Pestalozzi Foundation, the Organization for Stability and Cooperation in Europe, and the Hungarian Embassy.		
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